



Aerospace Medicine

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

This instruction establishes responsibilities and procedures for implementing and maintaining the Respiratory Protection Program at Sheppard AFB and applies to all Air Force military and civilian personnel, assigned and attached to organizations at Sheppard AFB, who require the use of respiratory protection. This regulation does not apply to contractors assigned or temporarily working on Sheppard AFB. The primary objective of the program is to implement 29 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1910.134, "Respiratory Protection", and AFOSH Standard 48-1, "Respiratory Protection Program" by ensuring individuals requiring respiratory protection are identified, trained, properly fitted and medically qualified to use respirators.

Section A -- References, Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Terms

See Attachment 1

Section B -- Responsibilities.

1. **Medical Personnel** will follow the guidance and procedures found in SGP Operating Instruction 161-31.
2. **Supervisors** shall call Bioenvironmental Engineering (BEE) at ext. 6-3080 for information regarding respiratory protection matters such as operating instructions, fit-test scheduling, etc. In case of an emergency involving respiratory protection after duty hours, a BEE representative can be reached through the hospital emergency room at ext. 6-2333.
- 3.. **Base Supply will perform the following:**
 - 3.1. Control the issue of respirators as described in this regulation.
 - 3.2. Ensure that BEE has approved requests for respirators prior to their issuance by:
 - Verifying preapproved issues on the Health Hazard Authorization Listing (HHAL)
 - Calling BEE for authorization to release the requested respirator.
 - Ensuring that a "SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE" for a specific respirator type or replacement part is not issued.
 - Ensuring that requests for local purchase of respirators (NSN 4240) are routed through BEE for their approval before expending funds. This will prevent the loss of funds to base organizations when requests to issue respirators is disapproved by BEE.
 - Ensuring that all respirators and respirator replacement parts are assigned issue exception (IEX) code Z. This will flag all requests for respirators and related items.
4. **Fire Protection personnel will:**
 - Follow established procedures as outlined in the Fire Department Standard Operating Instruction (OI)1404-1.
 - Forward a copy of the above standard OI will be forwarded to BEE for their records.
5. **Selection, Use, and Limitations.** See attachment 2 for a listing of authorized military and civil service respirator

users along with the general type of respirator required for specific tasks performed in their work area.

6. Training and Fit-Testing.

6.1. All personnel authorized to use respiratory protection equipment will receive initial training and fit testing by BEE personnel. (Exception: CE Asbestos Maintenance Team will receive semi-annual fit testing).

6.2. The workplace supervisor will contact BEE at ext. 6-3080 to schedule fit-testing at least 2 weeks prior to the fit-testing. The Aircraft Structural Maintenance Course will provide BEE with a schedule of fit-testing requirements based on student classes.

6.3. Shop supervisors will conduct refresher training on an annual basis and document on AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record, for each trainee.

7. Care, Inspection, and Maintenance of Respirators.

7.1. Attachment 3 to this regulation gives specific directions for inspection, cleaning, storage and user fit-testing for all respirator face-pieces.

7.2. Sections using high pressure supplied air or who have compressors for refilling SCBA tanks are required to periodically submit samples of their air to ensure the purity of the air being used. The frequency of such testing is directed by technical order, manufacturer literature, or the National Fire Protection Association Codes. A copy of the results will be forwarded to 82 MEDG/SGPB who will review the results and place them in the appropriate case file for that shop.

8. Medical Surveillance. Medical surveillance will be carried out as directed in 82 MEDG/SGP Operating Instruction 161-31.

9. Workplace Specific Operating Instructions for Respiratory Use. Each office or section on Sheppard AFB using respiratory protective devices must submit a copy of their Respirator OI for review and approval by the Chief of BEE. In the case of major changes to an OI, the OI must be resubmitted to BEE with all the changes identified.

10. Forms Prescribed. AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record.

WILLIAM L. WORTHINGTON, Brigadier General, USAF
Commander

3 Attachments

1. Abbreviations, Acronymns, and Terms
2. Workplaces Requiring/Authorized Respiratory Protective Equipment
3. Maintenance and Case of Respirators

ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, AND TERMS

- 1. Tight-fitting Facepiece** - Facepiece of a respirator that creates a seal with the face that allows both negative and positive pressure checks by the user.
- 2. Supplied Air Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** - Respirator that provides the wearer with breathing air from a tank that is capable of being operated in either a continuous or demand operation. These systems may be used for entry into confined spaces with oxygen deficiencies, for firefighter rescue, or for emergency escape from an atmosphere containing vapors or gases that may be immediately dangerous to life or health.
- 3. Breathing Air Compressor** - Used with supplied air respirators or for filling SCBA tanks. This system will have a heat alarm and filters for removing impurities from the intake air. The intake air for these compressors will be located in an area free of contaminants and mechanical room equipment (i.e. furnaces and water heaters).
- 4. High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters** - Are filters that remove 99.9% of the particulates in the air.
- 5. Health Hazard Authorization Listing (HHAL)** - Listing approved by 82 MEDG/SGPB that is provided to base supply that allows automatic respiratory purchase capability to all listed base users of respirators.

WORKPLACES REQUIRING/AUTHORIZED RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>TYPE OR RESPIRATOR</u>	<u>PROCESS RESPIRATOR USED FOR:</u>
Aircraft Structural Maintenance Course	Organic Vapor Supplied Air	Painting of Enamels & Lacquers Painting with Polyurethanes and Sand-Blasting
Asbestos Maintenance Team	Negative Air of PAPR With HEPA Filters	Glovebag Removal of Asbestos
Entomology	Organic Vapor with Pesticide Filters	Application of Pesticides and Herbicides
Fire Department	SCBA	Entry into Oxygen Deficient Areas
CE Utilities	SCBA	Entry into Confined Spaces
Liquid Fuels Maintenance	Supplied Air	To Teach Fuel Tank Entries
Trainer Fabrication	Dust/Mist Organic Vapor Supplied Air	Sanding Painting with Enamels & Lacquers Painting with Polyurethanes
BEE	Organic Vapor with HEPA Filters	HAZMAT Sampling Mercury Spill Clean-up Asbestos Sampling
Golf Course Maintenance	Organic Vapor with Pesticide Filters	Application of Herbicides

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF RESPIRATORS

Care and maintenance must be performed routinely to ensure that a respirator operates as it was designed and lasts for more than one use. This guidance will assist the user in the maintenance required to provide operating confidence to the user.

1. Inspection. The following items should be inspected on each respirator prior to every use:

- Tightness of the connections. This includes: the harness to the facepiece and the cartridges. NEVER over-tighten the filter cartridges, this will strip the plastic threads and the respirator will have to be replaced.
- Condition of the facepiece, head harness, valves and cartridge connectors.
- Check rubber or elastomer parts for pliability and signs of deterioration.

2. Cleaning. To prevent the chance of contracting respiratory diseases and aid in the general maintenance of your respirator, the following guidance is provided for keeping respiratory protective devices clean and ready for use:

- Respirator should be cleaned after each use. Amount of or length of usage does not matter.
- Remove filters/cartridges.
- Remove inhalation and exhalation valves. (NOTE: Inhalation valves tear easily, use care in removal)
- Wash facepiece and exhalation valve cover in a mild soap solution. Rinse in warm water, and then allow to air dry in an area away from any chemical contamination.
- Check valves for cracks or tears. Replace as necessary.
- If the respirator has been worn for 24 hours or the wearer feels excess breathing resistance when wearing the respirator, the filters/cartridges should be changed. (Exception: the Asbestos Maintenance Team must dispose of their filters along with any removed asbestos material after each job to prevent contamination from any fibers attached to the exterior of the filter)
- Cleaned respirator must be placed in a clean plastic bag and kept in an area free of any chemical contamination. For proper fit and seal, respirators must be carefully stored so that the rubber will not become distorted.